

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A curve generating apparatus adapted for generating, from a correspondence point identified on a curve in a first frame, a curve in a second frame, wherein the curve in the first frame relates to an extracted feature in the first frame, the apparatus comprising:

correspondence point detecting means for determining a correspondence point in the second frame corresponding to the correspondence point identified in the first frame; and

curve generating means for generating a curve in the second frame passing through the correspondence point in the second frame, wherein the curve in the second frame represents an outline of the extracted feature in the second frame, and wherein a picture image pursuant of the correspondence point identified on the curve in the first frame is used to determine the correspondence point in the second frame.

3. (Amended) The curve generating apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the curve generating means is adapted so that, when the first frame is caused to be the frame at the time of start and a frame at the time of end is caused to be a third frame, it determines an interpolated curve by linear interpolation from the curve in the first frame and a curve in the third frame to deform this interpolated curve into the curve passing through the correspondence point in the second frame.

4. (Amended) The curve generating apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the curve generating means generates, as the curve in the second frame, a shape along an edge of a picture image passing through the correspondence point in the second frame.

5. (Amended) The curve generating apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the curve generating means generates, as the curve in the second frame, a contour curve of an object in a picture image.

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6. (Amended) A curve generating method for generating, from a correspondence point identified on a curve in a first frame, a curve in a second frame, wherein the curve in the first frame relates to an extracted feature in the first frame, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a correspondence point in the second frame corresponding to the correspondence point identified in the first frame; and

generating a curve in the second frame passing through the correspondence point in the second frame, wherein the curve in the second frame represents an outline of the extracted feature in the second frame, and wherein a picture image pursuant of the correspondence point identified on the curve in the first frame is used to determine the correspondence point in the second frame.

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8. (Amended) The curve generating method as set forth in claim 6, wherein generating the curve comprises, when the first frame is assumed to be the frame at the time of start and a frame at the time of end is assumed to be a third frame, an interpolated curve is determined by linear interpolation from the curve in the first frame and a curve in the third frame to deform this interpolated curve into the curve passing through the correspondence point in the second frame.

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9. (Amended) The curve generating method as set forth in claim 6, wherein generating the curve comprises generating, as the curve in the second frame, a shape along an edge of a picture image passing through the correspondence point in the second frame.

10. (Amended) The curve generating method as set forth in claim 6, wherein generating the curve comprises generating, as the curve in the second frame, a contour curve of an object in a picture image.